

camped for the night. On the morning of the 6th, General Averell threw out a strong skirmish line that cleared his front to the foot of the Mountain. About 9 A. M. the 10th W. Va. Inft., 28th Ohio Inft. and one company of the 14th Pa. Cav. and two pieces of Ewing's Battery were sent around on a back road 6½ miles where they formed, and struck the enemy in force. Here is where the principal and hardest part of the battle was fought, and in passing over one small plot of cleared land, not comprising more than one acre, thirteen were killed and forty-seven were wounded. Some of those wounded died later, so if in this battlefield covering nearly two thousand acres of land and fought on by seven thousand determined soldiers, what would the casualty list have been if the land had been cleared. According to numbers, it might have been a second Lookout Mountain, a Fredericksburg, or a battle of great slaughter. Providence was kind, whilst the Mountain State was baptized in blood. Averell then formed the 2nd, 3rd and 8th W. Va. Mounted Infantry, with a portion of the 14th Pa. Cavalry in line of battle, who succeeded in driving the Confederate forces, composed of the 22nd Va. Inft. and 19th Va. Cav. and other units up the mountain, near the summit. While further on the left of the Confederate line we find a portion of Colonel Averell's regiment, 20th Va., Colonel.....commanding, Kesler's Battalion, 23rd Va., Major Blessing; four companies Derrick's battalion, a portion of the 22nd Va. Inft. Some of these units have been twice named because, as the fighting became more severe on the Confederate left, they weakened their right by sending reinforcements to strengthen their left. I give it as my opinion, knowing the spirit of the men who fought that battle, that if the army had not been protected by a dense forest that fifty per cent of the men engaged would have been slaughtered.

The forces engaged in the Battle were composed of twelve Confederate units, regiments, battalions and independent companies.

While the Union forces were composed of nine units, regiments and battalions, there was but a slight difference in the numbers composing the two armies, the 10th West Virginia infantry and the 23rd Ohio that comprised the flanking party and did the principle fighting was officially reported as 1175 soldiers while the 22nd Virginia Infantry, Confederate, was reported officially at 550 soldiers strong and the 23rd Virginia Battalion 350 strong. Captain Marshall with 125 dismounted cavalry, Captain Derring's battalion 300, and Major Kesler's battalion and other units composed a very

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AVERILL'S RETREAT

The "fourth separate brigade" was created March 28, 1863 and the command was given over to Gen. Roberts who had his headquarters at Weston. It included all the eastern section of West Virginia in which section were numerous Confederate sympathizers. There being probably more Confederate than Union people. This was true of Pocahontas Co. and Pocahontas was in the very heart of the bush-whacking section. There were so many deadly rifle shots, and both sides engaged in this unlawful warfare. Regular soldiers sometimes practiced it. In fact the State Guards or Scouts practiced this type of warfare almost altogether. This state of things Roberts intended to put down by driving the Confederates out. His policy was to make every sympathizer with the Confederates leave home. In this he had trouble. It was about this time that our families took to refugeeing. Here is an example of his mistaken policy. He might harry the old folks out of their homes because they had a son in the Confederate army, to find out later that these same parents had four other sons in the Union army. He was soon in disgrace at Washington and was referred to as the general who made "war on women and children."

On May 18, 1863 General William Woods Averill was ordered to find Roberts and to take over his command. Averill instead of proceeding against Staunton, as expected, came to Huntersville in Pocahontas Co. where he dispersed small detachments of Confederates, capturing some arms and stores.

He then marched into Greenbrier County and the battle of Rocky Gap was fought. On Averill's next appearance in Pocahontas County the battle of Droop Mountain was fought. After this battle Averill went as far south as Lewisburg then into Hampshire County. There he was notified he must make a raid on Salem

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CIVIL WAR

Virginia and destroy the railroad at this place. This was sending him with a small force (about 2,500 men) into Confederate territory held with undisputed possession.

He left Hampshire county on December 8, 1863. The first two days were spent in reaching Petersburg during which time the shoeing of horses went on as there had not been time to get the army ready for the march. The plan that was so quickly made sent Col. Moore with considerable force down through Pocahontas and on towards Kanawha to make a demonstration, and another force was sent into the valley towards Staunton. These detachments succeeded in diverting the Confederate forces from the main object of the campaign, which was the raid on the military depot and railroad at Salem.

Mr. Price goes into detail about where Averill was each day, but at any rate he marched by way of Petersburg, Franklin, Monteray, Mt. Grove, Sweet Sulphur Springs to Salem. He reached Salem on the morning of Dec. 16, 1863. They had completed their work by four o'clock in the afternoon.

He was hemmed in by forces under Fitzhugh, Lee, Jackson, Early and Echols and a terrible rain was flooding every stream. His next move was to get out of this death trap. Thus he began his famous retreat. He marched seven miles before dark and made camp. On the 17th it rained all day and all night, then turned cold. For the next four days he marched out of Virginia with the Confederates close on his heels. He had a few engagements with them. The country in Monroe and Greenbrier Counties was strongly held against him. He knew of an army at Mountain Grove. The road up Anthony's Creek to Huntersville was not open. Then it was that Averill made the most famous detour that was ever heard of. In his official report, all he said about it was that he "reached Hillsboro in Pocahontas by an "obscure road" by the evening of December 21, 1863." It had turned cold, and the streams were still high. He must have followed a

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trail of some sort for he brought his artillery through. This country between Callahans and the mouth of Spice Run is still in a state of wilderness and it would be interesting to know just how he got through with 2,500 men. It can be accounted for only on the theory that these soldiers were in the best condition physically and that they had the fierce determination to win through. The chances of a single man living to swim the Greenbrier at such a stage on such a day are rather slim, but maybe a whole army plunging into it together could overcome the rush of the icy current and bring them out on the other side. It would have been all but impossible for any other than toughened American soldiers. They say that when the army appeared in the Little Levels that they did not come by any road particularly, but swarmed up the side of the river ridge and broke over into the cleared level fields with a front several miles wide. The soldiers were all but starving. They had been marching through Confederate territory and after leaving Covington they had come through the wilderness. The Levels was the first country they had seen for days that afforded food and shelter.

It was the one raid into the Levels that took the citizens wholly by surprise. No well regulated army was supposed to be traveling through these mountains. But there was not much to eat there, for 1863 was the year when the county had been full of marching soldiers on both sides, culminating in the battle of Droop Mountain in November. So most of the winter provisions were well hid out. But what was found was eaten, though there seems to have been wonderful discipline in regard to taking food by force, as there was one case of an officer shooting a private who would not leave some bacon alone that a housewife insisted on keeping. At one house they ate all they could find, then ate the contents of a swill barrel that was getting ripe for swine.

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Every man and boy they could find they arrested. These prisoners were taken to the Academy building and the building was crowded with them. Alvin Clark, Andrew Price's, father-in-law was among these prisoners and Mr. Price got much of his information from him as he was held captive for three days. The soldiers were desperate and weary, but there was great vigilance and discipline maintained. The one question was "Is there any road to Edray so as to miss Marlin's Bottom?" And no man could tell him of any road. It was a matter of utmost importance. Hillsboro was in the Confederacy. Edray, fifteen miles north was in the Union. What Averill wanted was to reach Edray without chance of meeting a Confederate army at Marlin's Bottom where a road from the east comes in, but there was no detour, and next morning he was on his way. His reports say that "On my way to Edray my rear guard experienced some trifling attacks on Dec. 22nd "This referred to some very distant shots from the bush by some bush-whackers who hung on the flanks of the army.

Prisoners say they were very cautious and fearful as they approached Marlin's Bottom, but when the bridge at that place had been safely passed their spirits rose and they seemed to be freed from all fear of being captured.

Once at Edray, all discipline was relaxed and even the sentinels slept the sleep of exhaustion. It is said that a hundred men could have captured the whole army.

No particular attention was paid to the prisoners, and most of them quietly withdrew in the night time and the next morning the rest of them were told to go home. Alvin Clark says Averill told him that it appeared his family had more need of him than did the Union army and that he could go home. Averill spent the night at Edray in the brick house which stood where the house of William Sharp later stood. Most of the prisoners were impressed with the boyish appearance of Averill. By that time his name had become a household word in the mountains

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of W. Va., and he had the reputation of a most powerful and effective war lord. They expected him to be an older man.

On the 23rd he began the journey across Elk back to Beverly and safety. The roads were glazed with ice. The men had to dismount and pull the artillery by hand part of the way. But they got back with all their equipment.

For endurance, courage, strength and pluck this experience of an army of 2,500 is perhaps without parallel. Why much was not made of it is hard to figure out. For the work of these 2,500 who split the Confederacy wide open and overcome the resistance of the forces of men and nature seems that of supermen. Historians have practically ignored it. All the publicity it got at the time was from the Richmond papers and that was ridicule heaped on the Confederate forces, when no less than seven Confederate armies allowed one little Union army to cut through their lines, destroy two hundred thousand bushels of grain and other stores, tear up a railroad, and then to escape without capture.

The government recognized his campaign as a brilliant achievement, though the escape was due to pure luck, the Confederates having taken the wrong road. However, their reward was a new suit and a new pair shoes, for each of the men, to replace those worn out on the march. (From History of Pocahontas - Price Pocahontas Times Apr. 26, 1923. Written by Andrew Price.)

This march was made from New Creek in Hampshire County to Beverly by way of Salem, a distance of around 400 miles in 17 days, and in the winter time.

Union Soldiers

There were Union soldiers from this County who went out and joined other Companies and regiments who were mostly under the commands of General Milroy and General Sheridan. All the names that are available are as follows:

Akers Thomas,
Arbogast Brown,
Arbogast George,
Buzzard Armenius,
Curry John,
Cutlip William ,
Duffield William
Duncan William
Dilly Clark,
Kellison Clark,
Kellison Andrew,
Kee James,
McCarty Peter,
Moore, David,
Moore Joseph ,
Sharp Jerimiah
Sharp Milton,
Slaton John,
(Shears David)
(Rider James)
Wanless Andrew,
Wanless Nelson,
Wanless John F

A4 Sharp
Family History
5 files -
By Ward Sharp

A4 Sharp

Family History

5 files -

By Ward Sharp

Charleston - Section 11 B - 3

THE POCAHONTAS TIMES

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CALVIN W. PRICE, EDITOR

THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 5, 1940

The trip last week was over to Clarksburg to rehash a few feeble jests before that friendly society, the Kiwanis Club, and tell them builders where to head in. The invite came through the courtesy of Rupert Sinsel. He is a kinsman through the Warwick line. I am only hoping I did not say too much to disgrace the family reputation in those parts.

The Sinsels are a strong family connection in Borbour county. Their connection with the Warwick relationship is through the marriage of a daughter of Charles Cameron See, son of Adam and Mary Warwick See, the latter a daughter of Major Jacob Warwick of Pocahontas county. Charles Cameron See's wife was a daughter of Dr Squire Bosworth of Beverly.

I recall my father, the late Dr. William T. Price, telling intrestingly of a visit he paid to the Sensel family when he went out with the Tin Cup Campaign to Grafton in 1861 to defend the Commonwealth from invasion from the north. The Sinsel children said they were glad to see cousin, but for the sake of peace and harmony not to talk war before Grand pa Sinsel, and not to mention the mission which brought him to those parts. He could get by all right, as no uniforms had been issued to the Virginia soldiers for this first campaign.

Morning came after a pleasant social evening and a night of restful repose. Like in all regulated households, then as now, the day was fairly begun with family prayer. The old patriarch had the young minister read the Scripture portion, but he reserved to himself the matter of leading the prayer. The gist of the most fervent petitions was that the Union of States be preserved; by gentle persuasion if possible, but by unleased force if necessary.

I have the impression pa did not especially appreciate being prayed against, but what could he do about it?

For about eight years—from 1784 to 1792—from Saulsbury Run to Swago Creek, from Boyer to Buckeye,

grandjury return indictments for murder against many of our prominent people. They had been Confederate soldiers, and were halled before a civil court to answer for acts of war.

It kind of leaked out that the indictment would be quashed by the judge for cash consideration. I never heard tell of any of the true bills being taken care of in this easy, quiet, crooked way. My recollection is the court records will show the indictment aga'nst Captain Jacob W Marshall, of the 19th Virginia Cavalry, was not thrown out of court until sometime in the eighties when Judge Homer Holt was on the bench.

Anyway the people quietly organized a lynching bee to deal summarily with the Judge Harrison on his return to Lewisburg from the Hunterville court. In some way the word leaked to the judge and he went home by way of Anthony Creek instead of the usual route, the Lewisburg and Marlins Bottom Turnpike. I have heard the rspe was to be tied to the Marlinton bridge when they dropped the judge in the river.

Then the judge got in a mess at the Lewisburg court; got knocked through a window by the clerk of the court; went west and died within my own recollection in a poor house in Colorado.

All this is just leading up to say that the late Spencer Dayton appeared on the scene at a time when a lot of good people were in need of an advocate. The local attorneys were debarred by reason of the test oath. They could not swear they had not aided and abetted the late Southern Confederacy.

Incidentally one of them, Captain D. A. Stopper did stand and so swear. Having raised a whole company, called the Pocahontas Rescues, and marched them off in the Tin Cup Campaign to Phillippi as their captain; having collected some five minnie balls in his body during the following four years of war, the doughty captain was promptly indicted for false swearing. Then he too apparently stood in need of an advocate as much as anybody else.

It was Spencer Dayton who came into the breach. He came here from Summersville, over the Nicholas Trail through the Black Forest. It is said he disliked to wear shoes, and that he walked the distance barefooted, carrying his shoes and only putting them on when he came in sight of the court house. Anyway, the see

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a big part of Pocahontas was in the original confines of Harrison county. However, times were such, our people did not do much business so far as the records go in their county seat a week's walk away on the West Fork of the Monongahela. If ever I get a peaceful moment in Clarksburg I will look up the court records for those eight years.

The Harrison County Line it still a landmark here. Beginning at the Ohio River below Parkersburg it crossed Williams River at the Falls and Greenbrier River at the Buckley Rocks above the mouth of Swago and thence to the Top of Alleghany where the Greenbrier and Pocahontas line corners on the State boundary. This survey was made in 1785. This line dividing Botetourte and Alleghany, had been projected years before. It was recognized though never surveyed. The reason I say recognized is the Ewings, Kinnisons and McNeels went to Point Pleasant in 1774 with Botetourte companies, for they lived below Swago; the Poages, Johnsons, Moores, Warwicks, Camerons, who lived above Swago, went out with Augusta companies.

About all that can be said about our people being a part of Harrison county is that while it was so said on the book for eight years they were a part of it, in reality they did not know nor do much about it.

In counties west of us, the bearing of the old Harrison county line was taken by the old surveyors as the base line in running out the land grants.

The Sinsel family is connected with the Dayton family. The wife of Judge A. G. Dayton was a Miss Sinsel; their son is the Honorable Arthur Dayton of Charleston, leading lawyer, outstanding Shakesperian scholar of his generation, and a recognized art critic in the field of picture painting. What I am leading up to say is the late Judge Dayton was the son of the late Spencer Dayton. He came from Connecticut along about some time in the early fifties or late forties to practice law. This he did extensively in a whole block of counties which are now in central West Virginia. Incidentally when his grandson, Arthur, moved from Phillippi to Charleston some years since, the name of Dayton was removed from the list of attorneys at the bar of Barbour county, where it held honorable position for eighty years—grandfather, son and grandson.

Spencer Dayton is a tradition in Pocahontas county, and I have let the old people die off without finding out about his practice and service here in reconstruction times. Of course his family has written some thing about him and his ancestors tracing the line over to Old England and even running it down to Runny Meade, whatever and wherever that was. I reckon I ought not admit I am so provincial and narrow as to have small interest beyond my own Valley and State. But then doggone a man can easily take in too much territory and spread himself too thin. A man's responsibility must need have boundary somewhere.

vice of a strong lawyer was then available to an opposed people. I don't know of any of the trumped up murder cases coming to trial; certainly there were no convictions; eventually through the years the indictments were thrown out of court.

As for the indictment against Captain Stopher in some way appeal was taken to the Federal Court at Clarksburg, where the case was baffled along until the state restored the right of franchise to the Confederate soldier, and then dropped.

This, sketchily, is the tradition of Spencer Dsyton, the lawyer from the North, in Pocahontas county at a time when a lot of good people sure needed the help he so ably and so cheerfully rendered them.

You know, I never pose as a person with a message. In fact, when it comes to men with messages and women with missions, I devoutly ask a merciful heaven to deliver us, along with sudden death, bone erysipelas and poison ivy. However, I did tell those West Forkers down in Clarksburg that since their hick town was now something more than a wide place on the old Northwest Pike it was about time they were realizing the need of culture, and for heaven's sake to do the right thing by Salem College. This fine old school is eking out a somewhat precarious existence. Once it was down the pike aways, it is now just exactly far enough out in a suburban area. It is living up to and beyond its honorable traditions by doing a bigger and better work than ever before. Woefully is it handicapped by cut throat competition from State supported schools—which cannot be helped—and through lack of means to really meet the demands for higher education by Clarksburg boys and girls, so many of whom cannot go elsewhere—which can be helped.

It happens to be in name a Baptist College—tank or deep water I cannot say—but I do say the West Forker who would refuse moral and financial support to such a local institution because it bears not the name of his particular persuasion, the lid of the pit is popping for his lean old narrow soul.

I tried to tell them what the city of Richmond had done for the University of Richmond, a so called denominational college; what Huntington had done for Marshall College; what Charleston is liable to wake up and do for Morris Harvey; how Morgantown has been dead asleep at the switch as regards any apparent local interest, which would cost anything in the way of money and effort, for the advancement of West Virginia University.

Oh, I tried to throw the gad to those boys of the friendly society, who talk so big of service. For after all is said and done, the ordinary institution of higher learning—whether denomination, State or endowment proposition—is first and foremost a local industry. Regardless of everything, such institutions flourish or languish in relation to the light of community culture, whether bright or flickery.

After the Civil War
Indictments
and
The Test Oath

Welle V. McLaughlin,

In the years immediately following the war between the states, the reconstruction judge was a carpetbagger from Vermont or New Hampshire by the name of Nat Harrison. He had come into prominence somewhat as attorney for defense in the last trial for piracy on the high seas. This was in a Federal Court in New York. The brilliant young lawyer won decision to clear his clients of the charge.

About fifteen years after the celebrated trial, Attorney Nat Harrison turns up at Lewisburg as the Circuit Judge for the Greenbrier Valley counties. To say the least, he was an unlovely character. One item in many counts our people hold against Judge Harrison was his having the

The space is all used up and not a word about that local Clarksburg institution, Wade Pepper, writer extraordinary for the Clarksburg Exposition; Carlisle Wade, a Marlinton boy making good with the West Penn; who was so nice to me; how I missed seeing Forrest McNeill by a day, like has happened every time so often the past forty years; how Paul McNeill, another Pocahontas product, treated me so kindly.

I did the best I knew how to please. I started out in a lady-like glow; soon I perspired in a gentlemanly way, and wound up sweating like a horse. I am not going back unless they ask me.

Apr. 11, 43

Nelle Y. McLaughlin,
Marlinton, W. Va.

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Chapter 4

POCAHONTAS COUNTY

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(Confederate Soldiers from Pocahontas County.)

ARBOGAST, J. C.	Major	Co. G. 31st.	Va. Regiment.
ARBOGAST, Geo. W.	-----	Co. G. "	" "
ARBOGAST, Paul	-----	Co. F. 19th.	" "
ARBOGAST, Dome	-----	Co. I. 25th.	" "
AMISS, A. D.	-----	Co. F. 19th.	" "
ALDERMAN, Andy C.	-----	Co. I. 25th.	" "
ALBAUGH, Geo. B.	-----	Co. G. 31st.	" "
ALBAUGH, John	-----		
ALBAUGH, James	-----		
ARMENTROUT, Chas.	-----	Co. F. 19th.	" "
AULDRIDGE, John	-----	Co. D. 14th.	" "
AULDRIDGE, T. M.	-----	19th.	" "
AULDRIDGE, Wm. H.	-----	Co. D. 14th.	" "
BARNETT, Stephen	-----	Co. F. 19th.	" "
BARNETT, James	-----	Co. A. 62nd.	" "
BARNETT, Thomas	-----	Co. A. 62nd.	" "
BEARD, Chas. W.	-----	Co. F. 19th.	" "
BEARD, E. L. (SERGT.)		Co. F. 11th.	" "
BEARD, J. H. M.	-----	Co. F. 11th.	" "
BEARS, Jno. G.	-----	Co. F. 11th.	" "
BEARD, W. W.	-----	Co. F. 11th.	" "
BEARD, Jno. J. (Lieut.)		Co. F. 19th.	" "
BEARD, Joel M.	-----	Co. G. 31st.	" "
BEARD, Samuel	-----		
BEVERAGE, Levi	-----	Co. A. 62nd.	Va. Regiment.
BEVERAGE, Jos.	-----	Co. A. "	" "
BEVERAGE, Jacob	-----	Co. A. "	" "